

# Library Quarterly

**SUMMER 2021**

New in June / p. 1

Benefits of reading / p. 8

The truth about graphic novels / p. 12



*the magazine of the Vernon Area Public Library*

## Get a library card

Online at [VAPLD.info/card](http://VAPLD.info/card).

You can begin using your card number online as soon as you receive it in your email (usually within 24 hours).

## Access your account

Go to [VAPLD.info/account](http://VAPLD.info/account) and log in with your library card number and PIN (usually the last four digits of your phone number).

In the Vernon Library app: download for free in your app store.

## Find things and check out

To find books, e-books, audiobooks, movies, music, video games, and other materials available for checkout, go to [VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info).

To place materials on hold or request them for pickup, log in with your library card number and PIN (usually the last four digits of your phone number).

To find articles from magazines, newspapers, and journals, go to [VAPLD.info](http://VAPLD.info). Change the search box option from "Catalog" to "Articles" (in the dropdown menu) before you search.

## Convenient book returns

Return boxes are open 24/7 at the library and at:

### **Buffalo Grove**

Grove Shopping Center  
197 McHenry Rd. (northeast corner of Lake-Cook and McHenry roads)

### **Long Grove**

Sunset Grove Shopping Center  
4190 Illinois Hwy. 83 (east side of Highway 83, at Robert Parker Coffin Road)

## Attend an event

View upcoming classes, lectures, performances, and storytimes: [calendar.VAPLD.info](http://calendar.VAPLD.info).

Events are free and open to all.

Sign-up is usually required; see individual event listings for details.

Closed-captioning is available for most online presentations; see individual event listings for details.

## Library Quarterly

### **Editors**

Becky Ferguson,  
Catherine Savage

### **Designer**

Sadie Frey

### **Contributors**

Laura Cohen, Sarah Okner,  
Diane Presta, Keith Barlog,  
Rachel Shulman, Jennifer  
Steigerwald, Christine Hwang,  
Cynthia Fuerst

Printed in Waukegan, Illinois  
by Vogue Printers

*Stay up to date. Sign up to receive occasional emails from the library: [VAPLD.info/subscribe](http://VAPLD.info/subscribe).*





# Expanding access, safely

## New services planned to launch in June

As this magazine heads to the printer, the library is preparing for a new chapter. Local health measures are improving. Vaccines are widely available. The construction project is nearing completion. We are all ready to turn the page on this long, challenging year.

When the pandemic arrived in the spring of 2020, the library's role as a community gathering place suddenly also put our community in peril. The administrators and board of trustees came to the tough conclusion that to best protect the people the library serves, the building had to close.

Within days, staff pivoted to serving you online. We began broadcasting library programs on your screen, created virtual help desks, and set up outdoor Wi-Fi. We increased digital services to meet rising demand for e-books and streaming video.

Soon after, we launched curbside pickup. Through four seasons of weather, library workers have walked your materials and printouts right to your car. Their dedication and service are worthy of all our esteem.

At every step, the library has prioritized health and safety while serving our community's needs for information, culture, and connection.

As we head into summer, the library is excited to announce these expanded services:

**Drive-up window** OPENING SOON. When construction is done, the new drive-up window and covered walkway will improve access, safety, and convenience for everyone.

**Outdoor events** BEGINNING IN JUNE. A slate of free, in-person events welcomes you back to the library campus. Sign up to attend art workshops, storytimes, and concerts, all taking place outside. Online programs will continue, too. Find everything that's going on at [calendar.VAPLD.info](https://calendar.vapld.info).

**Building reopening** DATE TO BE DETERMINED. You'll soon be able to enter the library building, browse the shelves, and use the public computers and copy center.

We expect both the drive-up and the building to open in June, but as of press time, we do not know the exact dates. Find the most current information at [VAPLD.info](https://vapld.info).

Vernon Area Public Library is committed to providing library services in a way that protects library workers, patrons, and the most vulnerable members of our community.

Thank you for your continued support and many kind messages over these past months. We hope to see you in person again very soon.



# 160

average number of orders delivered each day at the curbside pickup lane

*by the numbers*

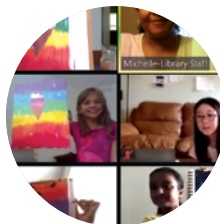
## LIBRARY SERVICES DURING THE PANDEMIC

*When businesses and public buildings closed in March 2020 in the interest of public health, Vernon Area Library quickly responded to keep delivering services. Here's how that looked, through March 2021.*



# 3-18-20

the early learning team hosts their first Streaming Storytime



# 158

personalized reading lists created

# 1,931

printing requests fulfilled



# 832

online programs hosted for babies, kids, teens, and adults



# 11,031

help sessions with a librarian, by phone, text, or email



# 221

requests for 3D prints processed and delivered curbside

# 833

requests for Browsing Bundles fulfilled



# +71%

increase in digital borrowing, including e-books, audiobooks, magazines, and movies



## SUMMER CAMP 2021

### A fresh take on a 120-year-old American tradition

Public libraries across the country have hosted summer reading programs since the late 1800s. They began as a way to keep city kids busy when school was out. They continue today because they're a great way for people of all ages to grow and learn during the summer months, when schedules are usually a little more relaxed.

Be part of this long tradition: The Vernon Area Public Library "Summer Camp" is a reading and activities series that you do when you like. Here's what you need to know:

- ▶ Summer Camp is for everyone...babies, tots, schoolkids, tweens, teens, young adults, and adults
- ▶ Begins June 1 and wraps up in early August, with a new session each Monday
- ▶ Join for one, a few, or all sessions
- ▶ Take part where you are — at home, outdoors, in your community
- ▶ Participate by attending online events, joining an organized activity, or giving back to your community
- ▶ Earn badges
- ▶ Enter to win prizes from local businesses
- ▶ Add some structure to your summer fun

Learn more and get started at [camp.VAPLD.info](http://camp.VAPLD.info).





# Serving people where they are

*“The library people are here!”*

When the Senior and Homebound Services staff hear that happy greeting, it reminds them that they are delivering more than books. They are delivering delight.

Every few weeks, the team takes library books, movies, and music to residents of senior living communities. They also deliver materials to local residents who can't get to the library because of age, disability, or illness.

“We pride ourselves on personal service,” said coordinator Jennifer Steigerwald. She and her coworkers choose library materials based on each person's preferences. “It's a puzzle figuring out what each person will like. When they like what we pick for them, it's rewarding.”

Before the pandemic, library staff and residents would usually have short visits. But 2020 halted face-to-face interactions. So the senior services team looked for another way to connect with the people they serve.

They added “Take & Make” kits to their deliveries. The craft kits allow community residents to connect with one another. For example, while making paper snowmen in the winter, neighbors shared memories of winters past. Some residents display their finished crafts for all to see. This provides another connection among neighbors, who admire each other's creativity.

The kits have been popular. The activities directors at senior communities shared their observations with library staff. Magaly Teran, at Avantara Long Grove wrote, “Our residents loved the craft!” Sue Church, who works at Sunrise of Buffalo Grove, said that “the Take & Make Kits are a wonderful independent activity for the residents to do.”

*If you or someone you know is interested in the Senior and Homebound Delivery service, visit [VAPLD.info/seniors](https://vapl.org/info/seniors).*



## A READING LIST JUST FOR YOU

Get book and author recommendations based on books you've liked or haven't liked, and other reading preferences, including your favorite format.

To request your list, go to [VAPLD.info/BookGenius](https://VAPLD.info/BookGenius).



## CLOUDLIBRARY

Wherever your summer reading takes you, download e-books and audiobooks instantly with cloudLibrary. Find the largest selection of e-books available with your library card on this app, including fiction and nonfiction for all ages. The service works with smartphones, tablets, and Nook e-readers. Visit [VAPLD.info/stream-and-download](https://VAPLD.info/stream-and-download).



## CONSUMER REPORTS

Shop smart. Whether you're planning to purchase a coffee maker or a car, find out what the unbiased testers at Consumer Reports say about quality, value, and the best time to buy. Access Consumer Reports for free. Log in with your Vernon Area Library card number at [VAPLD.info/CR](https://VAPLD.info/CR).

# Selected online events for adults

Free and open to all. Sign up (required) at [calendar.VAPLD.info](https://calendar.VAPLD.info) or by calling 224-543-1485. Most events offer closed-captioning.

### An Evening with Martha Hall Kelly

Hear from the bestselling author of *Lilac Girls* and *Sunflower Sisters* (released March 2021) about her writing process and the inspiration for her beloved novels. Audience Q&A follows.

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 7 PM

### Bagels with Bill the Baker

Learn to make bagels at home, including mixing, shaping, giving them a bath, and baking.

TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 7 PM

### Book Club Bash

Get fresh ideas for your book group or personal reading from Random House rep John Hastie and "The Good Book Fairy" blogger Lauren Margolin.

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 7 PM

### Jackie Robinson's Legacy

Historian and storyteller Barry Bradford chronicles how Robinson's talent and courage forever changed baseball and society.

TUESDAY, JULY 27, 7 PM

### Lunchtime Series

Take a midday break to learn something new.

### Chicago's Public Sculpture in the Loop

TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 1 PM

### The Shoulders We Stand On: Pioneering Activist Mary Church Terrell

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1 PM

### Hidden Memory: An American Story of WWII

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1 PM

For a complete listing of events, including computer and technology classes, book discussions, and movie discussions, visit [calendar.VAPLD.info](https://calendar.VAPLD.info).





## Summer reading top picks

Whether you're reading at the beach or on your patio, you can't go wrong with these recommendations. These picks cover a range of preferences, from romance to history, fiction to fact.

**People We Meet on Vacation** by Emily Henry

**The Dating Plan** by Sara Desai

**Quiet in Her Bones** by Nalini Singh

**The Survivors** by Jane Harper

**Finlay Donovan Is Killing It** by Elle Cosimano

**Raft of Stars** by Andrew J. Graff

**Libertie** by Kaitlyn Greenidge

**The Chosen and the Beautiful** by Nghi Vo

**Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir

**The Final Revival of Opal & Nev** by Dawnie Walton

**Elizabeth & Margaret** by Andrew Morton

**Facing the Mountain** by Daniel James Brown

# Why Read?

*Maybe you're a regular reader who picks up a book every day. Or maybe the last book you read was in school. Most people fall somewhere in between. No matter how often you read, here's some good news: time spent reading has real benefits for your life, health, and happiness.*



## Reading...

**reduces stress.** By opening a book, you enter another world, distracting you from everyday problems. Your heart rate lowers and your muscles relax. A University of Sussex study found that reading can reduce stress by up to 68 percent and works faster than a cup of tea, going for a walk, or listening to music. Even just six minutes can reduce stress levels by more than two thirds, according to the research.

**builds your brain.** Studies show that every time you read something new, your brain makes room to fit it in, improving memory. Reading also helps your brain recognize patterns, which improves critical thinking skills.

**kick-starts lifelong learning.** A 50-year study in the United Kingdom found that children who read for fun enjoyed a boost in vocabulary, spelling, and math. The study's director suggests that since reading introduces young people to new ideas, they become

better at understanding and absorbing new information. The study also found that the effect on vocabulary lasts a lifetime.

**gives you perspective.** "Reading can offer richer, broader, and more complex models of experience, which enable people to view their own lives from a refreshed perspective and with renewed understanding," according to Dr. Josie Billington of the Centre for Research into Reading at the University of Liverpool.

**improves sleep.** According to the Mayo Clinic, opening a book at bedtime helps you slide into slumber. Print books have an edge here; some research suggests that screens before bed interfere with sleep.

**boosts empathy.** Several university studies show that people who read fiction are more aware of and better at understanding other peoples' feelings. Stories appear to offer a deeply felt simulation of



real-world social experiences. Fiction lets a reader get into the head of a character to find out what their thoughts and feelings are.

**increases the likelihood of getting ahead.** There is a correlation between reading and success, studies show. High achievers like Warren Buffet, Oprah Winfrey, Reese Witherspoon, Phil Knight, and Malala Yousafzai are avid readers. In "For Those Who Want to Lead, Read," published in the Harvard Business Review, author John Coleman writes, "The leadership benefits of reading are wide-ranging. Evidence suggests reading can improve intelligence and lead to innovation and insight."

**lengthens life.** A 2016 study published in Social Science & Medicine found that of the 3,600+ people over age 50 who were studied, those who read up to 3.5 hours weekly were 17 percent less likely to die within the 12 years than those who did not read. And

those who read more than 3.5 hours per week were 23 percent less likely to die. (It also found that reading magazines or newspapers does not yield as strong an effect.) "People who report as little as a half-hour a day of book reading had a significant survival advantage over those who did not read," said the senior author, Becca R. Levy, a professor of epidemiology at Yale.

As a human, you're hard-wired to enjoy a good story, whether fact or fiction. If you haven't "clicked" with a book recently, you might want to try a new format (think audiobooks or graphic novels). If you would like help finding reading that interests you, go to [VAPLD.info/BookGenius](http://VAPLD.info/BookGenius) and complete the brief form to request suggestions just for you.

*If you don't have a library card, get one at [VAPLD.info/card](http://VAPLD.info/card).*



# Local teens do good from home

Most years, summer at the library means the buzz of junior volunteers. The annual summer reading program relies on dozens of helpers in grades 7 to 12 to sign people up and hand out prizes.

But last summer was different. The world shut down, and the summer program moved online. How would teens get service experience and volunteer hours while staying safe at home? Librarian and teen volunteer coordinator Diane Presta had to make a new plan.

The answer: remote volunteering. Presta found organizations with projects that could be done from home. The library would provide options, track participation, and certify service hours. And everyone would stay safe.

The new program was an instant hit. In fact, by popular demand, it kept going past summer and through the school year. In just 10 months, 171 students have participated. Together, they completed almost 2,000 activities and put in 3,379 hours of service. The program continues this summer, too.

Popular choices have included making greeting cards for senior citizens and U.S. troops overseas, transcribing historical documents for the Library of Congress, and creating inspirational sidewalk art to bring a smile to neighbors.

*All teen volunteers receive service hours and a certificate. To get involved, visit [VAPLD.info/TeenVolunteers](http://VAPLD.info/TeenVolunteers).*





## FLIPSTER

Take a social media break that still gives you plenty to explore. The Flipster app lets you page through more than 100 popular magazines. Try an issue of People, Seventeen, Outside, Popular Science, Entertainment Weekly, or Sports Illustrated — anytime, instantly.



## LIBBY

You don't need an e-reader to read e-books. Just load the Libby app. Check out teen award winners and best sellers including books by Monica Hesse, Adam Silvera, E. Lockhart, Leigh Bardugo, and Victoria Aveyard.



## KANOPY

Make this your go-to for streaming movies for free. Watch shorts, animation, indies, and movies from around the world. You'll also find documentaries on subjects from science and history to art and wellness. Get the app on your favorite device.



## Selected online events for teens

Free and open to all. Sign up (required) at [calendar.VAPLD.info](https://calendar.VAPLD.info) or by calling 224-543-1485.

### Interactive Magic & Illusory Demonstrations

grades 6 and up, plus adults

Experience an elegant magic show by illusionist Jeanette Andrews. She weaves together science and folklore, and invites the audience to help create the performance.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 7 PM

### Off the Page: A Teen Book Club

grades 8–12

Add your voice to the banter in a discussion of the month's selection.

MONDAYS 7 PM

June 21: *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson

July 19: *You Should See Me in a Crown* by Leah Johnson

For a complete listing of summer happenings, visit [calendar.VAPLD.info](https://calendar.VAPLD.info).



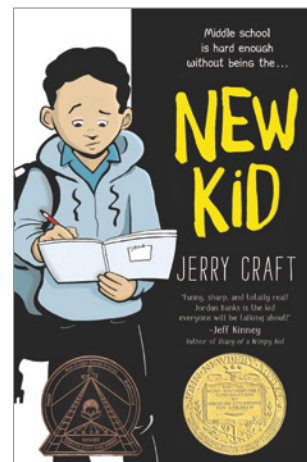
# Graphic novels = real reading

Graphic novels are fun, but are they “real” reading? According to learning experts, the answer is “yes!” In fact, the words-plus-pictures format of graphic novels provides a full-brain workout. Big benefits include...



**1**

New words! These books often use higher-level vocabulary than print-only books for the same age range.

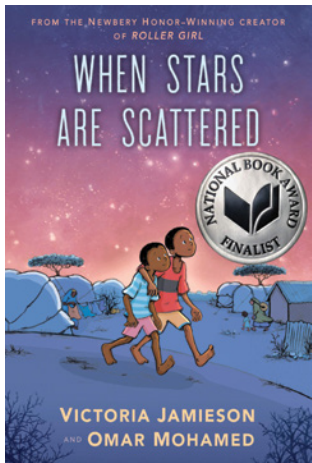
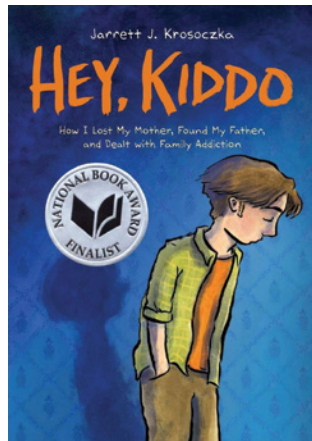
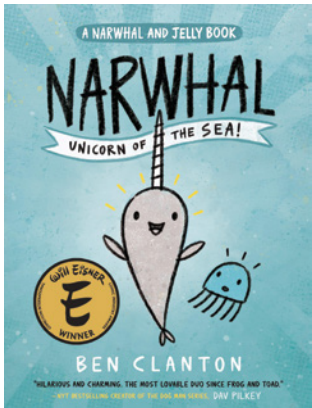


**2**

Illustrations provide context clues that help kids learn to “read between the lines” for the full story — a skill that is critical for comprehension.

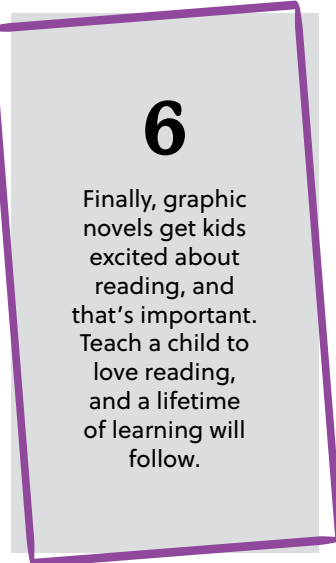
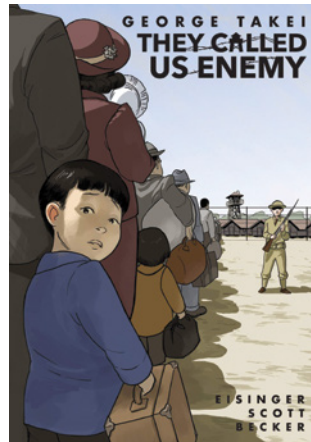
# 3

Social-emotional learning. Graphic novels give kids practice reading nonverbal communication, such as body language and facial expressions.



# 5

Many graphic novels are part of a series, naturally encouraging readers to keep reading.





## BOOK MATCH

Get a reading list for your independent reader. Fill out a short form to let the youth librarians know what interests your child, then get recommended titles and authors just for them. Book Match is a good way to encourage students to read for enjoyment. Begin at [VAPLD.info/BookMatch](http://VAPLD.info/BookMatch).



## KANOPY KIDS

Kanopy Kids is packed with thoughtful viewing, including science and math topics, language learning, and quality TV shows like PBS's *Arthur* and *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. The app lets you watch on your favorite device. No checkout limits. Log in with your Vernon Area Library card number at [kanopy.com/kids](http://kanopy.com/kids).



## SCIENCEFLIX

Keep STEM learning going this summer with this online resource developed by Scholastic's education experts. ScienceFlix lets your student explore Earth, space, health, physics, technology, math, and engineering at their own pace. Best for grades 4–8. Log in with your Vernon Area Library card number at [VAPLD.info/ScienceFlix](http://VAPLD.info/ScienceFlix).

# Selected online events for kids

Events are free and open to all. Sign up (required) at [calendar.VAPLD.info](http://calendar.VAPLD.info) or by calling 224-543-1486.

### Our Solar System with the Discovery Center Museum

grades K–5

Get to know the planets closest to Earth by taking a trip through our stellar neighborhood. Learn interesting facts about the planets in our solar system, take a safe look at the nearest star, and find out what NASA is working on.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 3 PM • ONLINE

### Lemonade Stand with Chef Kristyn

grades K–5 with an adult

Take your curbside lemonade stand to the next level with tips from a professional chef.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 7 PM • ONLINE

### Explore Your Family History

grades 3–5

Put your investigative skills to use to explore your family's history. Local genealogy expert Jacquie Schattner helps you trace your family tree and learn about your unique story.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4 • ONLINE  
3 PM OR 4:30 PM (CHOOSE ONE)

### Plus Take & Make Kits

at-home activity for all ages

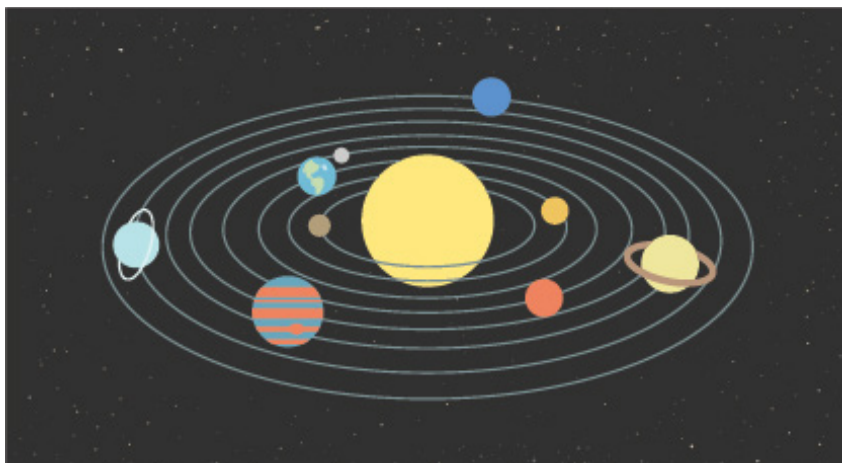
Beginning the first Friday of each month, pick up your crafting kit curbside or at the new drive-up window. A different theme each month. Available while supplies last.

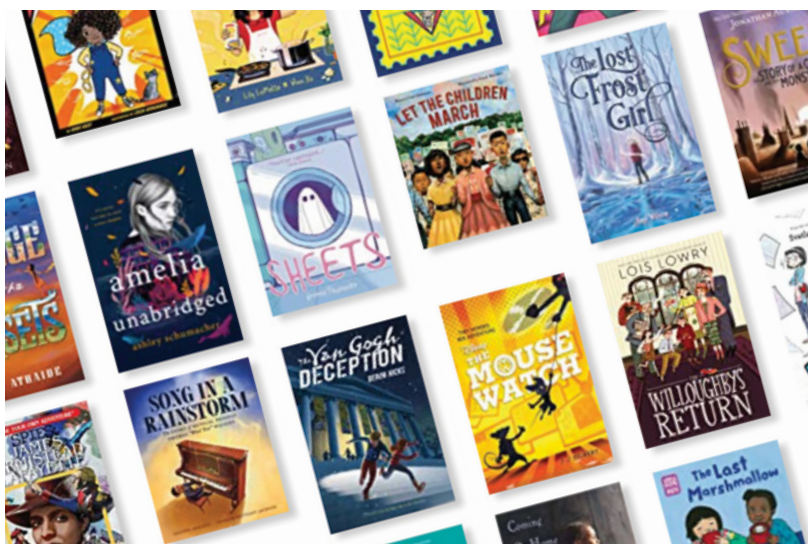
June: Camp Keychains & Bracelets

July: Gather 'round the Campfire

August: Constellations of Stars

For a complete listing of summer happenings, visit [calendar.VAPLD.info](http://calendar.VAPLD.info).





# Good stuff for preschoolers

## Little Pages & Play Boxes

This new subscription service is designed to nurture reading and development skills in your child ages 0 to 2. Each month you'll get supplies and instructions for a crafty play experience (yours to keep) and 2 or 3 board books (checked out to your library card).

Little Pages & Play Box subscriptions are free and available to Vernon Area Public Library cardholders. Sign up at [VAPLD.info/LPPB](http://VAPLD.info/LPPB). Then watch for an email letting you know your box is ready for pickup at the library.

## We suggest...

Head to Goodreads to browse hundreds of children's books reviewed and recommended by Vernon Area librarians. Themed bookshelves include picture books, read-alouds, animals, family, and friendship. No account or login needed. Go to [goodreads.com/VernonKids](http://goodreads.com/VernonKids).



# Storytime fun is serious learning

You're raising a reader; your library is here to help. The early learning team has designed interactive storytimes to nurture your little one's development from birth to kindergarten. Children's books, simple movements, songs, and rhymes engage babies, tots, and preschoolers at every storytime. It may look like nothing but fun, but there's real learning happening. Library storytimes foster the five pillars of early literacy — talk, sing, play, read, and write — to prepare your child for lifelong learning.

Storytimes are free and open to all. View the full calendar of storytimes and early learning events: [VAPLD.info/storytimes](https://vapl.org/storytimes).





## Baby Rhyme

0–14 months

10:30 AM WEDNESDAYS  
JUNE 9, 16, 23; JULY 14, 21,  
28; AUGUST 11, 18, 25

Join at 10:15 AM to connect  
with neighbors at the New  
Parents Meetup.

## Wiggling Ones

12–24 months

10 AM TUESDAYS  
JUNE 1, 8, 15; JULY 6, 13, 20;  
AUGUST 3, 10, 17

## Together 2s & 3s

2–3 years

10 AM MONDAYS  
JUNE 7, 14, 21; JULY 12, 19, 26;  
AUGUST 2, 9, 16

## Preschool Storytime

3–5 years

10 AM THURSDAYS  
JUNE 3, 10, 17; JULY 1, 8, 15;  
AUGUST 5, 12, 19

## Goodnight Tales for Tots

0–3 years

6 PM TUESDAYS  
JUNE 8, 15, 22; JULY 6, 13, 20;  
AUGUST 3, 10, 17

## Evening Stories with Miss Emily

age 3–grade 2

7 PM WEDNESDAYS  
JUNE 2, 9, 16; JULY 7, 14, 21;  
AUGUST 4, 11, 18

## Streaming Storytimes

0–6 years

9 AM MONDAYS  
JUNE 7, 14, 21, 28; JULY 5, 12, 19, 26;  
AUGUST 9, 16, 23

## Streaming Science Storytimes

0–6 years

10 AM FRIDAYS  
JUNE 11, 18, 25; JULY 9, 16, 23;  
AUGUST 6, 13, 20

These storytimes take place on Zoom. Sign up (required)  
at [calendar.vapld.info](https://calendar.vapld.info) or by calling 224-543-1486.

Drop in on these storytimes on  
Facebook Live. No account needed.  
Visit [facebook.com/VernonLibrary](https://facebook.com/VernonLibrary).

**Vernon Area Public Library**  
300 Olde Half Day Rd  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069-2901

## Location & Contact

300 Olde Half Day Rd.,  
Lincolnshire, IL 60069  
[www.VAPLD.info](http://www.VAPLD.info)

**Main**  
847-634-3650

**Library cards, renewals**  
224-543-1483

**Text a librarian**  
847-565-6457

**Adult Desk**  
224-543-1485  
[adultdesk@VAPLD.info](mailto:adultdesk@VAPLD.info)

**Youth Desk**  
224-543-1486  
[youthdesk@VAPLD.info](mailto:youthdesk@VAPLD.info)

**Homebound Delivery**  
224-543-1406

**Email the Director**  
[cfuerst@VAPLD.info](mailto:cfuerst@VAPLD.info)

## Hours

Library materials pickup and  
librarian help are available

<b>Mon-Thurs</b>	9 AM-7 PM
<b>Fri-Sat</b>	9 AM-5 PM
<b>Sun</b>	10 AM-5 PM

## Library Closed

Sunday, May 30  
Monday, May 31  
Sunday, July 4  
Sunday, September 5  
Monday, September 6

## Board of Trustees

Maxwell Boton  
Laura Caplin  
Marc Fenton  
George Goldstein  
Akrom Hossain  
Jonathan Passman  
Victoria Thompson

*New library  
services  
coming in  
June. Find  
out more on  
page 1.*